



27 October 1952

STAT

Dear 

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I was at least partially aware of the difficulties and embarrassment of your own personal position through the rather trying period that preceded  resignation. From the general tenor of the communication which Frank Wisner brought me from you, I was sure that we could rely on you to help hold things together and get the organization off on a better and straighter track. Your letter is, however, reassuring and I want you to know that we all have confidence in your ability to preside over the reorganization and reorientation of the project.

I am informed that you have been confirmed as President and are no longer serving under the title of "Acting". I personally approved of this change of status and was glad to endorse the Executive Committee's recommendation that you be accorded the appurtenances of the position as well as the title. Whether you keep the job permanently or not is a decision to be made after deliberate examination on the part of the three principals of interest, the Executive Committee, my organization, and of course yourself. I think it depends largely on you, and how you handle the job.

It is necessary to retain the interest, support and active participation of the influential group of individuals who make up the Executive Committee. It is also necessary for you to pull together with this group and to give them the opportunity to play a really significant role. They must continue to take the lead in discussions with you concerning the long range future, although they are aware that any permanent President must be completely acceptable to us here. I understand that consideration is being given currently to this matter by the Executive Committee and yourself, and that it is the consensus of all concerned that with you in charge there is no pressure to rush to a final and formal selection.

At present there is much to be done to shake down some of the overly ambitious and insufficiently thought out programs. In the matter of Radio, we have finally succeeded in obtaining a formula which

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*Official*

appears to be workable and acceptable and on the basis of which you may proceed with a reasonable assurance against sudden reversals on the grounds of "policy considerations" or otherwise. We will have to proceed slowly until we are satisfied that we have discovered and are capable of executing really significant and useful types of programs. Within the limits of the agreement which we have obtained, it should be possible for this work and this testing to go forward. At the same time, there are the other programs and the other approaches which need to be studied and strengthened. While the idea of Radio is appealing, it may well develop that some of these other approaches will prove to be more adaptable to the requirements of the situation and more beneficial to the objectives we are seeking to accomplish. I would rather concentrate on these things for awhile, and they will give you ample opportunity to prove yourself.

After you have lived with the new situation a little longer, I would like to have from you your general estimate of this effort and what can be made of it, together with any ideas you may develop as to ways and means of reshaping and clarifying the objectives.

Faithfully,

*W. B. Riddell*

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Drafted by DD/P-  24 Oct 52

Retyped: O/DCI-WBS/c

Distribution:

Orig--addressee

2 cc--signer(reading

(official ✓)

1 cc--DDCI

1 cc--DD/P - *W. B. Riddell*

24 October 1952

DRAFT: Proposed Letter from the Director to

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Dear :

I have been giving consideration to your most interesting letter of October 14, as regards both the new information which it contains and your statement to  to the effect that you were interested in the Presidency of the organization.

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~~I believe that~~ I was at least partially aware of the difficulties and embarrassment of your own personal position through the <sup>rather</sup> trying period that preceded Valentine's resignation. From the general tenor of the communication which Frank Wisner brought me from you, I was <sup>am</sup> ~~satisfied~~ that we could rely on you to help hold things together and get <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ organization off on a better and straighter track. Your <sup>letter</sup> ~~written communication~~ is, however, ~~not~~ <sup>most</sup> reassuring and I <sup>want</sup> ~~am anxious~~ for you to know that we all have confidence in your ability to preside over the reorganization and reorientation of the ~~effort~~ <sup>project</sup>.

~~Concerning your interest in assuming the Presidency,~~ <sup>and informed</sup> I understand that you have been confirmed as President and are no longer serving under the title of "Acting." I personally approved of this change of status and was glad to endorse the Executive Committee's recommendation that you be accorded the <sup>prerequisites</sup> ~~appurtenances~~ of the position as well as the title. ~~Concerning the long-range future,~~ <sup>it seems</sup> ~~whether you keep the job permanently or not~~ <sup>to be that this is a matter which requires the most careful and</sup>

*is a decision to be made after*

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deliberate examination on the part of the three principals of interest, ~~the~~, the Executive Committee, my organization and of course yourself. *I think it depends largely on you,*

*and how you handle the job.*  
~~I believe that you both understand and agree with the importance~~  
*It is necessary to retain*

~~of retaining~~ the interest, support and active participation of the

~~very~~ influential group of individuals who make up the Executive

Committee. *is also* ~~It seems to me that it is not only appropriate but~~

*for you* ~~necessary to the success of this complicated and difficult venture~~

to pull together with this group and to give them the opportunity

to play a really significant role. ~~For this reason I feel that~~

*must* ~~They should~~ continue to take the lead in discussions with *you* ~~yourself~~

concerning the long range future, *although they are aware* ~~even though we are all agreed that~~

*that* ~~when the time comes for a decision as to the permanent President~~

*to us here.* ~~this person must be completely acceptable and entirely within my~~

~~confidence.~~ I understand that consideration is being given currently

to this matter by the Executive Committee and yourself, and that

it is the consensus of all concerned that with *you in charge* ~~yourself at the helm~~

there is no *pressure rush to a* ~~reason to be precipitous in the effort to arrive at the~~

*and formal* ~~final selection whether this is to be yourself or some other one else.~~

~~person.~~

*At present* ~~Meanwhile there is plenty~~ *to shake* ~~to be done by way of shaking down~~

some of the overly ambitious and insufficiently thought out programs.

For example, *I might* ~~in the case of Radio I believe that, as the result of~~

*finally* ~~extensive efforts here,~~ we have succeeded in obtaining a formula which

*appears to be* ~~is both~~ workable and acceptable and on the basis of which you may

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proceed with a reasonably ~~solid~~ <sup>will have</sup> assurance against sudden reversals  
 on the grounds of "policy considerations" or otherwise. We ~~should~~  
<sup>to</sup> proceed slowly ~~and with caution~~ <sup>all</sup> until we ~~have~~ <sup>are</sup> satisfied ~~ourselves~~  
 that we have discovered and are capable of executing really significant  
 and useful types of programs. Within the limits of the agreement which  
 we have obtained, it should be possible for this work and this testing  
 to go forward. At the same time, there are the other programs and  
 the other approaches which need to be studied and strengthened. While ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>idea of</sup> Radio ~~is appealing~~ <sup>is appealing</sup>, it may well develop that some of these ~~other~~  
<sup>approaches</sup> will prove in the ~~long run~~ <sup>to be</sup> more adaptable to the requirements of  
 the situation and more beneficial to the objectives we are seeking  
 to accomplish. <sup>I would rather concentrate on these</sup>  
<sup>things for awhile, and they will give you ample</sup>  
~~In conclusion, I am anxious for you to feel free to communicate~~ <sup>opportunity</sup>  
~~with me personally on any matters which you believe should receive~~ <sup>to prove</sup>  
~~my personal attention. After you have lived with the new situation~~ <sup>yourself.</sup>  
 a little longer, I ~~should appreciate receiving~~ <sup>would like to have</sup> from you your general  
 estimate of this effort and what can be made of it, together with  
 any ~~particular thoughts~~ <sup>ideas</sup> which you may develop as to ways and means  
 of reshaping and clarifying the objectives.

Sincerely,

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DD/P:  24 October 1952